



PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 13th, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Adam Jones, Community Relations Coordinator 513-806-3941
Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities
414 S. East Street, Lebanon, OH 45036
Adam.jones@warrencountydd.org

WCBDD lifts spirits with Cinco de Mayo themed “Reverse Parade” amid Pandemic

(Lebanon, OH) – On May 5th, 2020, the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities (WCBDD) held a Cinco de Mayo themed “reverse parade” as an alternative way to safely engage and lift the spirits of enrolled individuals during the pandemic.

Vehicles of individuals and families lined the parking lot of the Warren C. Young Center, while volunteers eagerly put together the finishing touches to their Cinco de Mayo displays. As vehicles began their approach, they were received by enthusiastic greetings from the volunteers, accompanied by hand-made signs offering words of encouragement and support.

Consisting of agency staff, local providers, and community members, the volunteers combined their “morale boosting” efforts, led by Community Integration Coordinator, Rhonda Schutte.

“As everyone is feeling isolated, the “Reverse Parade” provides individuals served by WCBDD with an opportunity to see staff, providers, and community volunteers, in a safe environment (practicing social distancing)”, Schutte comments. “We want them to know, we are still here for them.”

Schutte adds, “This simple event resulted in a great impact. We saw happy tears and many smiles. Several staff reported that this event was very needed by all, and uplifted their spirits as well, in a time that was uncertain.”

In addition to the vibrant Cinco de Mayo colors and the encouraging volunteers, individuals were gifted a “goodie” bag filled with “boredom busters” and treats donated by staff and providers as well as a \$5 off coupon from local restaurant, Acapulco. Though the event had a physical distance, it was certainly not distant socially.

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides services and support to almost 2,000 individuals with disabilities and their families, through Early Intervention, Employment Services, Social, Recreational, Residential, Service Coordination, and other programs.